



Oh yeah...

Army's Got

Story by Gil High



Jerry Nadeau talks with a fan in Afghanistan.



Tony Schumacher signs autographs during the visit.

CPL Keith A. Kuwe (both)



Gill High

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Visit Jerry Nadeau's site at
www.jerry-nadeau.com
and Tony Schumacher's site at
www.tonyschumacher.com.

That didn't give either driver much time to prepare for their racing seasons, which began in February, but both men said the trips were rewarding and a welcome break before their season openers.

"I wish every American could see what our troops go through, so they realize how lucky we are to have our freedom because of the military and dedication of its soldiers," Nadeau said. "Maybe being able to shake hands and say thanks to the soldiers I met meant a lot to them, but it meant much more to me."

Nadeau is driver of MB2 Motorsports' No. 01 "U.S. Army Car," a Pontiac Grand Prix. This is his first year on the Army team.

Schumacher, known as "The Sarge," because of his Army sponsorship, is among the leading

contenders for the NHRA Winston Top Fuel Championship and is hailed as the fastest driver in drag racing with history's first 330-mph run.

The racers' close association with the Army seems to be growing stronger. Now soldiers, who are deployed all over the world and often feel a loss of roots associated with the teams they once followed, have their own "Home Team" to cheer to victory. And as for Nadeau and Schumacher, they take that support as something to be cherished.

Schumacher said having the Army sponsorship was a wonderful opportunity, but it was also inspiring. "I've got big shoes to fill," he said.

"I plan to do my best at every opportunity to represent the Army and somehow communicate how amazing and valued Army people are," Nadeau added. □

Racing

WHILE others were home enjoying the last days of the Christmas season and beginning of the New Year, NASCAR driver Jerry Nadeau and National Hot Rod Association driver Tony Schumacher were touring Afghanistan to greet soldiers supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Then they were off to San Antonio, Texas, to sign autographs for soldiers and sports fans attending the Army-sponsored high school All-American football game that was carried live on ESPN2.

The drivers pose with Nadeau's Pontiac Grand Prix (top) and with Tony Schumacher's dragster (right).



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